

initially opposed, a day or two ago, a Schmit amendment to reorder our rules and to suspend some rules. The...my intent then at that time was to allow for even more full-fledged debate. That, I think, was abused. Our rules, as Senator Warner reminds us, are too fragile to capture every possibility of misdirection or of ill-intent or of circumvention and that has proven true today. I don't think that there is a way in which we can rely on the rules to extricate ourselves very easily at this point. It is, however, not the cause for the orgy of self-congratulation that seems to be going on here that the rules have been found to allow for excessive debate. In fact, that is what our rules are meant to do. They are to ensure debate, not to cut it off. If we've done anything in our rules, it is to find forms for minority expression of opinion rather than majority action and that is unfortunately a failing of our rules as we have found in the last several days. They are poorly designed to stop a determined effort to undermine the inherent authority of this body to act and that certainly is proven to us. If I was laid hands upon by Senator Chambers, I'm a reasonable man, but I would defend myself. If Senator Chambers came to my home and tried to steal something away from my home, I'm a reasonable man, but I would defend myself. And if the interests of the 33,000 people that I represent and come down here to do their bidding are made to stand mute and silent and I'm unable to on their behalf act in their interests, if I am robbed of my power to vote, if that is stolen away by the clear and clever reading of the rules, I will defend myself and this body should as well. It is not a source of self-congratulation, it is one of condemnation. The rules are a balancing between minority rights of expression and majority power to act. We have long since passed that point and no attempt to make this something other than that will wash. The State of Nebraska has stood by and watched, watched on these cameras, they know what the story is, they know the malefaction and at whose feet it rests and ultimately this is a body that is meant to do the public's will and is meant to act. I will not have my one forty-ninth part of that stolen away. I'm a reasonable man, but I will defend myself.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of the Chair, and as much as Senator Chambers has called himself king of the Legislature and requests due homage in this amendment that he offers, the motion to overrule the Chair, I cannot support that. Respect Senator Chambers, yes, homage, no.